



H.R. 1100 – Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site Boundary Revision Act of 2007

Floor Situation

H.R. 1100 is being considered on the floor under a structured rule. The rule:

- Provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Natural Resources.
- Waives all points of order against its consideration except for clauses 9 (earmarks) and 10(PAYGO) of Rule XXI.
- Makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules report accompanying the rule. Each amendment is debatable for 10 minutes.
- Provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

This legislation was introduced by Representative Heath Shuler (D-NC) on February 15, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Natural Resources, by voice vote, on May 2, 2007.

H.R. 1100 is expected to be considered by the House on May 23, 2007.

Summary

H.R. 1100 would allow the Secretary of the Interior to purchase from willing donors up to 115 land for the purpose of curbing development outside where Carl Sandburg's home is located in Flat Rock, North Carolina. The area is named Connemara.

Additionally the legislation allows for the building of a visitor center and parking area.

Amendments Printed in the Rules Report

1) Rep. Bishop (R-UT) The amendment delays the acquisition of any new land for the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site until after deferred maintenance has been completed at the site.

2) Rep. Bishop (R-UT) The amendment reduces the total amount of acreage which can be acquired for the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site from 115 acres to five (for use as a visitor center and parking lot).

3) Rep. Heller (R-NV) The amendment eliminates the use of appropriated funds to acquire 110 acres of land for the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, but still allows the land to be acquired by donation, purchase with donated funds or by exchange with other lands.

Background

The National Park Service listed Carl Sandburg's home as a Historic National Park in 1968. There were renovations done to bring the house back to pristine condition and protect the home's numerous bookcases. HR 1100 purportedly protects a "viewshed," however it not visible from the historic home.

Carl Sandburg lived from 1878 until 1967 and was a poet. He won two Pulitzer prizes. One was for an autobiography of President Lincoln and the other was for a collection of poems entitled "The Complete Poems of Carl Sandburg".

The family moved from his boyhood home in Galesburg, IL to "Connemara" in North Carolina. He completed roughly one-third of his works from North Carolina.

**Note: According to the Committee Republicans, "To be fair, the National Park Service did make a case for a five acre expansion for a visitor center and parking lot to address safety concerns and to enhance the visitor experience. The additional 110 acres have been proposed to protect a 'viewshed.' Notwithstanding the inherent problems with creating buffer zones, this bill has the additional complication of attempting to protect a view that is not visible from the actual park unit. From the evidence presented to the Committee, and accepted by the Majority, the land in question is not visible from nearly the entire historic site. Rather the viewshed is on the other side of a ridge which marks the park's boundary. The 110 proposed acres are clearly out of view of the Carl Sandburg home, which this National Park unit is designed to preserve and interpret. We have seen no evidence that this augmentation of the immense federal estate will in any way enhance the visitor experience or even protect the National Historic Site.*

Cost

"CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1100 would cost \$7 million over the next several years. We estimate that about half of that amount would be used by the NPS to acquire about 115 acres of land near the existing historic site. (Such costs could be lower if the NPS can acquire easements for some of the acreage.) The remaining funds would be used to construct and equip a visitor center and related facilities near the site. We estimate that costs to manage the additional acreage and operate new visitor facilities would be less than \$500,000 a year, assuming the availability of appropriated funds." *Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate*

Staff Contact

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